(c) The prices of cotton in the early part of the season ruled lower than those of last year. However due to improvement of the prices in the International market from January, 2000, there was increase in the prices of cotton.

To check an abnormal rise in market price of cotton, the Government have placed import of cotton under OGL with a nominal import duty of 5.5%. The import window is thus open and mills can import quantities and varieties of cotton of their choice.

Policy to tackle natural calamity

3290. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 501 given in Rajya Sabha on 3rd December, 1998 and state:

(a) the details of policy finalised in this regard;

(b) the extent of damage caused by flood and cyclone since April, 1998 to June, 2000, State-wise; and

(c) the amount of relief/assistance asked for, amount declared by Prime Minister, various sources of fund, amount actually released including those assistance from other sources, both within and outside the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Financial assistance for undertaking relief measures in the wake of natural calamities is available under the scheme of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and was also available upto 31.3.2000 under the scheme of National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR). The items of expenditure and norms of assistance are provided under these Schemes. The State Governments are required to debit the expenditure for relief accordingly.

(b) Details of damage during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01, as reported by the State Governments, are given in the Statement I to III respectively. (*See* below).

(c) Central share of CRF and assistance from the NFCR (wherever necessary) are released to the States for undertaking relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. State-wise details of releases from CRF and NFCR is indicated in the statement-IV (*See* below). Funds are also made available to the States mainly in the form of Advance Plan Assistance taking into account the

intensity of the calamity and the requirements of the States concerned. Contributions from within and outside the country are normally made to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. However, questions pertaining to this Fund are not admissible under relevant rules of "Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha", since the corpus of this Fund is constituted entirely with voluntary public contribution and not from any allocation out of the Consolidated Fund of India and disbursements from the Fund are entirely at the discretion of the Prime Minister.

Statement I

Damage due to Heavy Rains/Floods, Cyclone, etc. during 1998-99

Sl. No.	State	Human Lives Lost (Nos.)	Cattle Lost (Nos.)	Houses Damaged (In Lakhs)	Cropped Area Damaged (Lakh ha.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	239	NR.	0.31	13.04
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	23	16	Neg.	Neg.
3.	Assam	159	7814	0.35	2.89
4.	Bihar	380	187	1.99	12.24
5.	Gujarat	1305	15647	2.73	2.27
6.	Haryana	N.R.	NR.	NR.	7.40
7.	Himachal Pradesh	71	221	0.05	2.35
8.	Karnataka	310	9562	1.28	6.07
9.	Kerala	224	N.R.	0.38	1.46
10.	Maharashtra	537	2000	1.46	N.R.
11.	Meghalaya	3	N.R	Neg.	0.04
12.	Orissa	23	17	0.12	0.75
13.	Punjab	46	72	Neg.	0.84
14.	Rajasthan	12	51295	0.15	N.R.
15.	Sikkim	10	40	0.01	0.10
16.	Tripura	17	N.R.	0.12	N.R.
17.	Uttar Pradesh	1361	3399	3.85	14.15
18.	West Bengal	235	1642	1.98	4.47
	TOTAL:	4955	91912	14.78	68.06

N.R. —Not Reported
Neg. —Negligible

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Statement-II

Damage due to heavy rains/floods, cyclone, etc. during 1999-2000

Sl. No.	State	Human Lives Lost (Nos.)	Cattle Lost (Nos.)	Houses Damaged (In Lakhs)	Cropped Area Damaged (Lakh ha.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	388	0.03	N.R.
2.	Assam	3	N.R.	Neg.	1.06
3.	Bihar	285	2028	2.49	3.44
4.	Gujarat	46	Nil	N.R.	N.R.
5.	Himachal Pradesh	30	129	0.02	N.R.
6.	Karnataka	122	959	0.17	0.04
7.	Kerala	152	N.R.	0.21	N.R.
8.	Madhya Pradesh	27	654	0.29	0.62
9.	Orissa	10100	455109	21.60	21.54
10.	Punjab	11	N.R.	Neg.	0.02
11.	Rajasthan	46	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
12.	Tamil Nadu	103	573	0.36	0.20
13.	Tripura	16	82	0.04	0.05
14.	Uttar Pradesh	86	9	0.01	0.33
15.	West Bengal	79	N.R.	5.76	0.34
	TOTAL:	11109	459931	30.98	28.00

N.R.—Not Reported

Neg.—Negligible

Statement-III

Damage due to heavy rains and floods during 2000-01

State	Districts affected	Population affected (In Lakhs)	Human lives lost	Cropped area affected (In Lakhs ha)	Houses damaged
Andhra Pradesh	14	NR	61*	0.08	410
Arunachal Pradesh	5	NR	26	0.03	NR
Assam	18	36.09	32	2.24	NR
Bihar	20	35.19	47	1.63	22252
Gujarat	10	4.08	106	NR	23841
Himachal Pradesh	4	NR	100	NR	NR
Kerala	14	NR	75	NR	9474
Madhya Pradesh	6	NR	13	Neg.	3297
Punjab	7	NR	7	0.25	Neg.
Uttar Pradesh	26	2.90	109	0.36	7003
West Bengal	6	6.67	14	2.01	37975
TOTAL:	130	84.93	590	6.60	104252

NR—Not reported Neg.—Negligible

*loss of lives in respect of natural calamities from June, 2000.

Statement-IV

Funds released from calamity relief fund and national fund for calamity relief

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	State	Calamity Relief Fund (Central Share)			National Fund for Calamity Relief	
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Andhra Pradesh	103.30	107.69	77.78	26.50	75.36
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.86	6.10	4.40	13.47	—
3.	Assam	41.60	43.37	15.66	59.90	—
4.	Bihar	43.22	33.79	—	11.45	38.18
5.	Goa	0.89	0.93	0.34	—	—

Sl. No.	State	Calamity Relief Fund (Central Share)			National Fund for Calamity Relief	
		1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	1998-99	1999-2000
6.	Gujarat	116.12	121.05	131.14	55.35	54.58
7.	Haryana	20.84	21.73	15.69	13.27	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	22.42	23.37	8.44	—	—
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	16.39	17.09	6.17	—	73.42
10.	Karnataka	34.81	36.29	13.11	49.98	17.09
11	Kerala	46.08	48.04	17.34	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	42.49	44.29	31.98	35.00	38.86
13.	Maharashtra	56.73	44.36	—	—	—
14.	Manipur	2.06	1.61	1.56	—	4.93
15.	Meghalaya	2.32	2.42	1.76	—	—
16.	Mizoram	1.05	1.10	0.08	—	6.00
17.	Nagaland	1.41	1.47	0.53	—	—
18.	Orissa	40.77	42.50	30.70	—	828.15
19.	Punjab	45.04	46.96	16.95	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	148.92	15.25	168.18	21.98	102.93
21.	Sikkim	3.92	4.08	2.95	7.67	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	49.37	51.47	18.59	—	—
23.	Tripura	3.74	3.90	1.41	5.05	5.34
24.	Uttar Pradesh	104.07	108.50	39.18	131.15	16.68
25.	West Bengal	42.69	44.50	32.13	66.33	29.52
	TOTAL:	996.11	1011.86	636.79	497.10	1291.04

Suicide by Farmers

†3291. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to cash crops the farmers fall into a debt—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.